AUTOMATIC VIDEO MONITORING SYSTEM
WHICH SELECTIVELY SAVES INFORMATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

     A system (10) for automatically monitoring an area includes a camera unit (12) having therein a video camera (23) and an image processing section (27). The
5   image processing section saves a reference image from the video camera, compares subsequent images to the reference image, and detects and tracks change regions in the subsequent images. For each change region, the image processing section saves a path of movement of the change
10   region, and a selected image of the change region. Selection is carried out so as to optimize the selected image, for example so that a detected person is facing and close to the video camera. The camera unit is network-ready (14), so that a remote workstation (13) can access
15   the images and other information saved in the camera unit.